

Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians



February 28, 2008

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Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Air Quality Control
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Carson City, NV 89701-5249

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

While our concerns are not limited to those of air quality, we ask that the air quality permit requested for the Toquop coal-burning plant be denied.

The projected air quality emissions will compound the detrimental affects already occurring regionally as a result of the industry located in the Moapa Valley as well as transported emissions from Las Vegas.

Although our reservation is located approximately 70 air miles from the project, the Toquop area is in the heart of our traditional aboriginal lands. Its mountains, rocks, wildlife and plants - even our lifeblood, water - are our cultural resources that will suffer from a projected 50 years' accumulation of emissions from this plant. Poisoning these sacred beings with mercury, sulfur and nitrous oxides, particulate matter, heavy metals, radiation, and adding to the greenhouse gas emissions causing global climate change is a reprehensible act.

We realize that Nevada statutes direct NDEP to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens from hazardous pollution. Our fellow band of Southern Paiute (and many members of our own band at any given time) is located on the reservation at Moapa, which is between the Reid-Gardner plant and Toquop - sandwiched in such a way that virtually any way the winds blow, they will be victimized.

The Toquop Draft EIS made it clear that with existing ambient conditions the Moapa reservation is already in non-attainment for PM₁₀. With the advent of Toquop, the Moapa Band will also be exposed to additional PM₁₀.

Epidemiological studies into the health effects of long-term exposure to ambient particulate matter have shown direct links to serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, including: premature mortality, aggravation of respiratory and heart diseases (as indicated by increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, school absences, work loss days, and restricted activity days), aggravated asthma, acute respiratory symptoms, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and increased risk of myocardial infarction.

Across a state line that air emissions and tribes do not recognize, the Shivwits Band of Southern Paiute is also directly in line for this environmental injustice.

Apparently, our peoples' health and lives can be sacrificed to keep extravagant, and unnecessary, displays of Las Vegas casino lights burning 24/7.

Tribal Affairs

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Where are the health analyses for these two communities vital to the Southern Paiute?

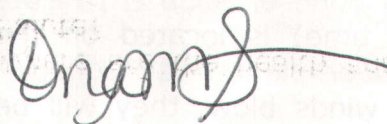
To add insult to injury, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement made it clear that the captured emissions (coal combustion wastes) of Toquop will be left in place on that land once the plant is decommissioned, continuing pollution of our cultural resources (and the public lands of all Americans) even beyond the life of the plant, leaving a toxic legacy for many future generations of our Southern Paiute descendants.

Southern Paiutes are culturally and federally tied to these lands into the foreseeable future, so the combined affects against our peoples places an exaggerated and unnecessary burden upon them.

However, the NDEP can be proactive in preventing this environmental injustice. Recent developments on state permitting of emissions associated with a proposed coal-burning plant in Kansas indicated that even though NDEP's current laws fail to acknowledge the scientific data relating to CO₂ emissions, the Toquop permit **can be denied** because of its implications for global climate change.

Your mandate for preserving the health of citizens demands nothing less. Please deny the Toquop air quality permit.

Sincerely,



Ona M. Segundo
Chairwoman
Kaibab Band of Southern Paiutes

cc: Phil Swain, Honorable Chairman of Moapa Band, Southern Paiute
Glenn Rogers, Honorable Chairman Shivwits Band, Southern Paiute
Charles Benjamin, Western Resource Advocates

Nevada
Environmental Protection

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